The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives you authentic, factual, impartial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1919. Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1919, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

It's Not Too Early! REGISTER NOW VOTE IN 1950

WHOLE NO. 2008 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 40

Humphrey Asserts Nation's Prosperity Depends on Labor-Farmer Well-Being

St. Paul—Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota told the AFL's 68th annual convention that a prosperous America depends upon the "economic well-being of workers and farmers.

He warned the "fraternal order of frustrated politicians" that: "Unemployment in the ranks of labor and depressed prices in the agricultural economy would be more destructive to the American way of life than any atomic bomb in the hands of a foreign aggressor."

In a speech that brought roars of laughter and applause, Sen. Humphrey identified the members of the "fraternal order of frustrated politicians" as "a coalition of the reactionary elements of the press, the postwar isolationists, the politically bankrupt leadership of the GOP, a handful of determined Dixiecrats and the soft-headed parlor pinks, along with the outright Communists."

Sen. Humphrey, who first addressed the 1947 AFL convention in San Francisco as mayor of Minneapolis, made his first convention appearance as Senator. AFL President William Green pointed out in his introduction. Mr. Green recalled that after Humphrey's San Francisco speech he nominated him for Senator from Minnesota. Humphrey addressed the 1948 Cincinnati convention as Senator-elect. He defeated Senator Joseph H. Ball who helped to write the Taft-Hartley law.

Sen. Humphrey said that a just and lasting world peace depends upon a prosperous and free American. "The economic well-being of both the worker and the farmer is the only hope of a prosperous America," he said.

"Those who would seek to destroy us are patiently waiting for us, the American people, to create our own mistakes and our own troubles, the aggravation, the fear, and the enemy of a free America is a reactionary policy at home and abroad which fails to recognize the basic needs and the legitimate rights of our people."

Sen. Humphrey urged Labor's League for Political Education to intensify its work. He said that effective political participation must go hand in hand with the growth and maintenance of a strong labor movement. He said the league has undertaken a tremendous task and has advanced its program with amazing advice.

"The acid test of its effectiveness will be in the election year of 1950," Humphrey said.

He criticized the Taft-Hartley law for destroying the neutrality of the NLRB and for unbalanced labor relations and said it is crippling the growth of the union movement, particularly in the South.

He said that the cold-war-management peace until this grossly unfair, anti-Per legislation is removed from the statute books and the economic relationships between labor and management are settled around the conference table." Sen. Humphrey said: "The election year of 1950 is the most critical battle in the struggle to see whether or not this country of ours is going to stand in the shadows of the new deal or backward into the confusion of the pre-new deal."

Sen. Humphrey said that even though the Fair Deal program has been stymied again in the 81st Congress, the success of Taft-Hartley repeal and enactment of a civil rights program and social security extension bills will be determined by what happens at the polls next year.

He said the "fraternal order of frustrated politicians" have seized upon the "welfare issue" as their slogan for the 1950 elections.

"All this talk is the welfare state they are against," Sen. Humphrey said. "Abroad it is our aid to socialist British and Scandinavian. This policy is isolationism abroad and confusion and desperation at home.

"We accept their challenge," he said. "We are not ashamed of our own words they are telling the American people that we oppose the programs of social security, fair labor standards, free collective bargaining, agricultural price supports, soil conservation, farm credit, crop insurance, grain storage and agricultural research.

He urged the AFL to rededicate itself to the fulfillment of the country's responsibility for international leadership. He said the liberal and democratic forces of Europe look to the American labor movement for inspiration, comfort and political and economic guidance.

Green Calls For Election Of Liberal Congress To Repeal T-H Law, Enact Social Legislation

Keynote Address Before 68th AFL Convention Pledges Vigorous Fight on Communism, Full Support for Free Labor

St. Paul.—President William Green sounded the keynote for the 68th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor by calling for united action in the coming fall campaign and electing a liberal Congress which will repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

A roar of thunderous applause came from the 700 delegates representing the AFL's 8,000,000 members and rose to the high roof of the gaily decorated St. Paul municipal auditorium.

Mr. Green pledged a continuing fight against communism, full AFL support for a new world labor organization free of domination by any government, and policies to get additional social legislation passed in the next session of Congress.

Opening the convention session, Mr. Green said:

"It is the purpose of our great organization to mobilize every ounce of strength it possesses, all its power, bring about the defeat of those candidates who voted for that notorious piece of legislation and to elect our friends to the Congress of the United States and bring about an early repeal of the repressive law.

Mr. Green said there can be no doubt about labor's ability to accomplish this objective. He pointed to the 1948 successes in defeating Taft-Hartley Senators in Minnesota, West Virginia, Illinois and Tennessee.

"That will be one of the problems of this convention, to determine how effective we can be in defeating Taft-Hartley Senators and bring about administrative ability so that we can go into the other states and defeat those who voted for this notorious measure. We must protect our friends who stood with us," Mr. Green said.

In a fighting closing paragraph the AFL will never "waive our right to demand increases in wages for the workers of the nation" and said the AFL is "opposed to government board setting our wage standards anywhere or any place."

Though Mr. Green mentioned no names, reporters regarded these remarks as a reference to the CIO's surrender of its demands for a general wage increase after being forced to accept Philip Murray's defeat in the steel industry labor dispute which rejected a general wage increase.

Mr. Green recalled the success of labor in the 1948 elections when reactionary Senators from Ohio, Taft; Colo. Millikin; Wyo. Robertson; Minnesota, West Virginia, Illinois and Tennessee.

"There is no left wing and right-wing in the AFL, he said.

Mr. Green gave assurance to "our friends and workers abroad" that it is the AFL purpose to support fully a new world labor organization free from communist control. We want to perfect what we have already started to do and that is to establish this movement upon a sound basis, free from the influence of control and governmental domination, and with the assurance that it will not be the arm or the agency of any government, but it will be a free labor movement which will be heard from anywhere in any nation throughout the world," he said.

Mr. Green predicted that the AFL will continue to grow in membership and influence. He said that when the AFL met in St. Paul in 1918 the membership was about 2,000,000. Today it has grown to 8,000,000.

"That is deeply significant," he said. "It proves we have a movement that grows and expands in strength and influence and that it will continue to grow and expand as we increase the desire in the hearts of the working men and women that they shall continue to enjoy a higher standard of life and living."

He praised the success of AFL efforts in getting Congress to pass a housing bill and to raise the minimum wage from 75 cents an hour. He said the AFL is still fighting for improved social security legislation. He said the labor movement is not satisfied with the present distribution of our hopes, our plans and our expectations, perhaps, I hope, in the immediate future, we shall be satisfied."

Then Mr. Green plunged into an obvious reference to the dissension and internal struggle in the CIO. "Let me point out to you that we are meeting in the shadow of the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, where we met before," he said. "There is no division between the ranks of the American Federation of Labor. There is not left and right wing. We think as one, we walk as one, and we act as one. We will not be called upon to consider internal dissension, the attempts made by the minority, unfortunately, to the fight between the right and the left wing. What we do is speak as one, unite as one, fighting as one, standing as one, and marching out from here back home as one, to fight together for the workers of the nation."

And he warned the delegates to fight for the common cause, as he concluded:

"We have never in any official statement said that we have reached the peak of our power. We have never said we have reached the peak of our power for the workers of the nation, and we are not going to do that.

"Only a few weeks ago, when great issues were before the working people of the nation, the press carried the story that more than 20,000 teamsters in northern New York have received an increase in wages amounting to over 15 cents an hour.

"Our members are securing increases in wages constantly for we have determined through an examination of the financial standing of employing industries that we can secure increased wages without increasing the selling price of the products.

"Labor must share in the earnings of these corporations and share equitably, and it is a vital contribution to the welfare of our country to give up the right to demand equitable sharing in the earnings of corporations.

"We don't want to government boards. We don't ask for government boards. We are opposed to government boards setting our wage standards anywhere or any place. This is a very fundamental principle with our great American Federation of Labor."

Gerald O'Donnell, president of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, served as temporary chairman, opening the convention. Welcoming addresses were made by Mayor Edward R. Delaney of St. Paul; District Judge Gustavus Loevinger; Robert Olson, president, and George Lawson, secretary, of the Minnesota Federation of Labor. The invocation was said by Most Rev. James Byrne, auxiliary bishop of St. Paul. Joseph R. Olonoski, vice chairman of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly and chairman of the entertainment committee, outlined the program of social events. William L. Doherty, Executive Council vice president, led in singing the national anthem.

Council Supports Moderate-Income Housing Measure

St. Paul.—The enactment of the Housing Act of 1949, providing for Federal low-rent dwellings and a program of slum clearance, was the "one bright spot in an otherwise dark picture," the AFL Executive Council declared in its report to the 68th AFL convention here today.

Warning that the housing shortage was still a major problem for millions of families in 1949, the council pointed out that the new federal housing legislation offers no assistance to middle-income families, those with incomes between $2,000 and $3,750 annually.

Furthermore, the council declared, the housing problem for many workers has been complicated by the weakening of the federal rent control program.

The council said that legislation to aid the middle-income group in its efforts to obtain adequate housing is needed "to round out a truly comprehensive housing program to meet the needs of every group in the population."

Pledging that it would wage a hard fight for the enactment of such legislation, now pending before the 81st Congress, the council gave its support to the Sparkman-Spence bill which it said, "would lower the cost of housing down to $50-60 a month, an amount which ordinary workers can afford to pay." The council report said:

"Title III of the Sparkman-Spence bill provides for direct loans for large-scale rental housing projects sponsored by cooperative and non-profit corporations at the going federal rate of interest (2) percent) plus one-half of 1 percent for administration, for an amortization period of up to 60 years, but not to exceed the useful life of the project. The bill provides for a new separate constituent unit within the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the Cooperative Housing Administration, the head of which will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

"This legislation would make possible the construction of a maximum of only 120,000 units, but it is confidently expected that once this program is underway, it will so conclusively prove the value that future sessions of Congress will extend it on a permanent and expanded basis.

"At this writing, it is too early to know whether the Spackman-Spence bill, and particularly its Title III providing for the new cooperative housing program, will be enacted in the 81st Congress. Support for it has come not only from organized labor but also from veterans, church, minority and other groups who are concerned with the vital problem of meeting the housing needs of average Americans."

AFL Building Trades Urge U.S. Program To Build Needed New Public Schools

St. Paul.—The 424 annual convention of the AFL's Building and Construction Trades Department urged Congress to appropriate funds to build desperately-needed new public schools.

It said in a resolution that "immediate congressional action is required in this serious educational emergency if the safety of our youngster generation is to be protected."

The department called on Congress also to appropriate funds to provide a reserve of plans and specifications for public buildings to maintain the construction industry at a high level of activity and to put into effect a large-scale program to eliminate water pollution.

Department officers were directed to work for transfer of jurisdiction over construction of dams, river and harbor improvements from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Interior Department's Reclamation Service. The transfer would "benefit thousands of many branches of the armed forces have set up the practice of hiring so-called temporary civil service employes to perform construction work at reduced rates of wages far out of line with the prevailing wage rates."

All officers of the department were reelected. They are Richard J. Gray, president; Herbert Bridges, secretary-treasurer, and the following vice presidents:

L. P. Lindelof, president Brotherhood of Painters; William J. McSorley, president International Union of Lathers; Daniel J. Tobin, president International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Harvey Brown, president International Association of Sheet Metal Workers; William E. Maloney, president International Union of Operating Engineers; Daniel W. Tracey, president International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Martin F. Ryan, president International Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry; M. A. Hutcheson, vice president United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

AFL-CIO Political Action Rejected At National Level

St. Paul.—Political cooperation with the CIO on national basis was unanimously rejected by the AFL Executive Council in its report to the convention meeting here.

Until the organizations are united organically, AFL President William Green said there can be no collaboration on the political front.

The decision of the Executive Council, he said, reaffirmed earlier policy declarations in previous years. The matter was brought up again in connection with a proposal that Mr. Green appear together with CIO President Philip Murray at a political rally in New York City in behalf of the senatorial candidacy of Herbert Lehman.

While the AFL heartily endorses former Governor Lehman, Mr. Green said, the council felt that a joint appearance of the heads of the two labor organizations at the rally might create a false impression that the groups are collaborating all down the line on political matters.

Mr. Green said that the AFL has not interfered in the past when local AFL affiliates have worked in harmony with CIO groups in favor of the same candidates, so long as the AFL maintained its own identity and arrived at its own political choices independently. He added that the council's action was not intended to interfere with that kind of cooperation on a local basis in the future.

Earlier Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education had said in an interview that he favored close cooperation between AFL and CIO local groups when they supported the same candidates. He emphasized his statement that he was not advocating a departure from AFL national policy against political cooperation.

AFL Battles 'Reds' In Election Race

New York.—There is one political contest in this city to be settled on Election Day, which every trade union political party and trade union is united with the exception of the Communists.

The contest is between one of the top American Communist leaders, Benjamin J. Davis, who was originally elected from Harlem and now on trial for criminal conspiracy to overthrow the American democracy, and Earl Brown, veteran Democratic politician, a man who has covered many a trade union convention as a member of the Life Magazine.

The Communist party, to whom this race is of transcendent importance, is pouring thousands of dollars into the district as well as its best-known orators to win this race against a candidate who has the nominations of the Democratic, Republican and Liberal parties. Davis is running on the Communist American Labor party ticket.

Heading Brown's AFL committee is Thomas Young, vice president of the New York State Federation of Labor and secretary of Local 228, Building Service Employes International Union. Young has received the support of such AFL leaders as David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Frank Crosswaith, Alex Rose, David Sullivan, A. Philip Randolph and Benjamin McLaurin. The CIO in New York City is also behind Brown in good earnest.

Despite the fact that Brown, one of the outstanding leaders of the American Newspaper Guild, has the support of a large number of labor men from assured, Communist strength in the district, leaders in the Communists are aware of the fact that a victory in them would be of inestimable propaganda value, particularly should Davis be convicted of criminal conspiracy.

The Davis-Brown race will shortly receive wide attention because Davis bids about the highest public office of an avowed Communist. As a member of the City Council, Davis has an outstanding public forum for his speeches and resolutions dealing with current Communist issues.

26 AFL Labor Papers Given Awards By International Labor Press Unit

St. Paul.—Twenty-six achievement awards were presented to AFL union newspapers at the 68th annual convention of the International Labor Press of America. The awards were presented by AFL President William Green, who is honorary president of the ILPA.

Delegates mapped a program to expand news service and circulation of the labor press.

Marion Wolf, AFL Executive Council vice president, was reelected president. Others are: Hermann Kenin, editor New Jersey Labor Herald, secretary-treasurer; Frank B. Powers, editor Commercial Telegraphers Journal, was elected as the organization's first fraternal delegate to the AFL convention.

Nine vice presidents elected were Powers, first; Frank X. Martel, Sr., United Labor Press, second; Al Magnuson, Colorado Labor Advocate, third; Ralph Helstein, Packinghouse Journal, fourth; William B. Arnold, San Antonio Weekly Dispatch, fifth; Stanton Dunn, Mobile Labor Journal, sixth; Joseph J. Kral, Illinois State, County and Municipal Workers, seventh; J. Earl Jennings, Electrical Workers' Journal, eighth; Max D. Danish, seventh; Kenin, ninth.

The winners of the association's annual awards are:

International union publications: Editor's excellence, Max D. Danish, Molders' Journal, first place; Building Service Employe, second. Typography and prework, American Pressman, Bulletin Board, first; Pressman, second.

Monthly publications, news or magazine: Editorial excellence, Overture, Musicians' Journal News, first; Colorado Labor Advocate, second. Typography and prework, Oregon Teamster, first; League Reporter, second.

Best single editorial: Chicago Federation News, "Hands Off a King," first; Machinists Monthly Journal (television), second.

Best original cartoon: Seaman, in Potters Herald, first; Noel, in Paper Maker, second.

Best editorial display: Paper Maker, first; Textile Challenger, second.

Best front page: Oregon Teamster, Paper Maker, first; Oregon Teamster, second. (B) Art or pictorial: Butcher Workman, first; Public Employe, second.

Best feature article: Detroit Labor Bulletin, "Detroit Labor News, first; Colorado Labor Advocate, second.

Best column

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

It's Not Too Early! REGISTER NOW VOTE IN 1950

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

President Truman Pledges Support For AFL Program

St. Paul.—President Truman praised the AFL for helping to make America "the best fed, best clothed, and best housed nation in all history."

In a message to President Green read to the 68th annual convention, Mr. Truman pledged his "full support" in rounding out a program to give many additional Americans the benefits of modern medicine, better agricultural price supports, more and better housing, and greater educational opportunities.

Mr. Truman promised that repeal of the Taft-Hartley law "is a matter of unfinished business which we can agree will be finished to the satisfaction of working men and women throughout the length and breadth of our American people."

In extending his greetings to the convention, Mr. Truman said:

"The American Federation of Labor through all its long history has been a leader in championing the rights of working people, in fighting for them better and safer working conditions, greater social security, and an increasingly high standard of living. Particularly since 1935 has your organization cooperated with the national administration for the enactment of a wide program of forward-looking legislation in the interest of wage earners, farmers and in the public interest as well.

"Such legislation has been a most important factor in making the American standard of living the highest in the world. We are the best fed, best clothed, and best housed nation in all history. With approximately 60,000,000 men and women at work and with the profits of industry high we can, and we will, maintain our living standards and improve them for those of our people who are underprivileged.

"Many additional Americans need the protection of adequate minimum wages, of agricultural price supports, of more and better housing and of greater educational opportunities. They will have their needs satisfied through the cooperation of wage earners and farmers with their government. Be assured your unions and all progressive forces will give full support in rounding out much needed programs to insure the Fair Deal goal for the benefit of all the people of the land.

"This is the cause to which we are dedicated. It may be delayed by the tactics of those who live in the dark ages of social thinking and oppose the extension of the benefits of modern medicine, but in the end it will triumph if we continue to stand together and meet the challenge in the best interest of all patriotic Americans.

"Since your last convention the 81st Congress, has been shorn of its power and influence by the 80th Congress, has been largely restored to its proper status as I pledge you in my message to you the Taft-Hartley Labor Law will be repealed although the nation voted for such action in accepting the forthright platform of the Democratic party last November.

"That is a matter of unfinished business which we can agree will be finished to the satisfaction of working men and women in response to the voice and wishes of the American people."

Hoffman Says European Imports Can't Hurt U. S. But Will Help Assure Peace

St. Paul.—Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator, said that import of goods from Europe can't "hurt us" but will help assure a lasting peace by strengthening democratic European countries.

Hoffman warned that unless we let Europe sell us more of her goods, "all the accomplishments of the first 24 months of the Marshall Plan could be undone, wrecked, and wiped out within 6 months, with Europe again vulnerable to the false propaganda of the Kremlin."

He posed the problem for the 68th AFL convention in three simple steps:

1. Even after reconstruction has been completed Europe must buy $5,000,000,000 worth of goods annually from the Western Hemisphere.

2. Two-thirds of these dollars are now being given to her but they must be replaced with earned dollars.

3. These earned dollars can be supplied by increasing her exports to the United States from $1,000,000,000 to $2,500,000,000 annually by increasing exports to other dollar countries, and expanding her tourist trade.

"Remember," Hoffman said, "we are talking about goods from Europe which represent 1 percent only of our total gross national income. Any stretch of the imagination can our absorbing that 1 percent of goods hurt us.

"By buying more of each others' goods both Europe and the United States stand to gain from increased production and lower prices," he said. "The net effect is certain to give the mutually higher standard of living for the people on both sides of the Atlantic.

"We dare not discourage the hopes that are now building up in Europe that we will let them earn their way. For in those hopes of becoming self supporting and even prosperous members of a progressive western society lie our best hope for peace."

Hoffman said that as a result of the first 18 months of the Marshall Plan Europe is no longer hungry, she is at work, is unnarling her own restrictive barriers, and has demonstrated her eagerness to compete and cooperate with the free nations of the Western Hemisphere.

"The people of Europe," he said, "have demonstrated that unless we let Europe sell us more of her goods, "all the accomplishments of the first 24 months of the Marshall Plan could be undone, wrecked, and wiped out within 6 months, with Europe again vulnerable to the false propaganda of the Kremlin."

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Morse Warns Impoverished Nations A Threat to American Prosperity

St. Paul.—David A. Morse, director general of the International Labor Office, warned that the existence of impoverished nations is a threat to the well-being of prosperous countries.

"If workers elsewhere have to be poor, fear and want," Morse said, "the well-being of the American worker is imperil."

He told the 68th AFL convention how the ILO is attacking the twin problems with an employment service to channel manpower where it is most needed, to furnish technical training, and to assist in orderly migration of workers.

He urged the AFL to make full use of the ILO to wipe out poverty and establish world peace.

"The ILO," he said, "is the instrument which attacks the social diseases which underlie the causes of war. It is your instrument for international effort and world peace. I beg of you, use it—use it to the full."

Morse said that the failure to participate in international affairs means depriving a worker of the right and opportunity to help ourselves gain the benefits of prosperity and peace.

He praised the vision of AFL President Samuel Gompers and William Green in establishing and supporting the ILO. He said the ILO now has 60 member nations on its 30th anniversary.

"Collaboration among nations for the betterment of human beings has consistently been advocated and supported by the AFL," Morse said.

The former Undersecretary of Labor related that in the year since he became an ILO director-general he has visited 18 countries, talking with presidents and workers, with business men and farmers, with children.

"There is still too much poverty in the world, too much misery, too much insecurity and fear," Morse said.

"There is insufficient confidence and hope. It is these things which need to be set right."

Labor's League for Political Education Calls for Immediate $2 Contribution of All Members; Meany and Keenan Outline 1950 Objectives

St. Paul.—The AFL opened the greatest political effort ever undertaken by any segment of organized labor which is to be aimed at holding the congressional gains made in 1948 and picking up the additional votes necessary to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and pass other labor legislation.

The 700 delegates to the 68th annual convention began the drive by calling on every one of the 8,000,000 AFL members to contribute $2 to Labor's League for Political Education for the 1950 election campaign to win the national Congress, state legislatures and other local and federal offices for progressive candidates. They acted as the members of the league's national committee.

In a rousing special meeting of the league which took the place of a regular convention session, the delegates pledged their whole-hearted support to the league as "the spearhead of an immediate rallying call to our 8,000,000 members asking for and urging their active participation in the forthcoming campaign."

The action followed an enthusiastic report on the success of the league by Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and a fighting speech on the big task ahead in 1950 by Joseph Keenan, league director.

"Labor's League for Political Education is now an established and influential force in American political life," Mr. Meany said in summary. "So far as I know, the members of the international unions, give the same splendid backing that you have in the past, the league will continue to be an important liberal force."

Mr. Meany revealed for the first time that the league and the AFL union will appeal to the rank-and-file membership of organized labor beginning January 1 to counteract criticism of organized labor.

He reported that 1948 was the most successful in the past year and leagues established in every state. He listed the major achievements as: (1) enthusiasm of labor; (2) "tremendous amount of literature, leaflets, bulletins and pamphlets on the AFL economic philosophy; (3) special league reports from Washington over 180 radio stations and 1500 weekly Congressmen which have resulted in $750,000 worth of public service free time for AFL; (4) "tremendous amount of voting records of every congressman for national distribution; (5) victory in two of three special congressional elections.

Mr. Meany said that failure to repeal the Taft-Hartley law was not because of any failure of the AFL unless the unions were responsible for the seven 5 votes short in the Senate and 14 in the House in putting over a repeal bill.

"The cold fact is that we will not get sound and equitable labor legislation in place of the Taft-Hartley Act until we elect more Representatives and more Senators who will view with respect the legitimate aspirations of free trade unions," Mr. Meany said. "That means we must finish the job in 1950."

He said that the perfection of effectively coordinated leagues in every one of the 435 congressional districts will be the major concern of the state leagues in the remaining years before the 1950 primaries.

"We must get started quickly in our preparations," Mr. Meany said, "and we must have adequate finances in advance of the primaries."

Mr. Keenan echoed this view and advised:

"We have to work in every single district in the country because the voting records show many of our most reactionary Congressmen come from rural districts. Just as in 1948, it will be the officers and rank and file members working at the grass roots, precinct by precinct, and house by house, who will win this next election. This fight to me is a fight for our existence.

"The immediate job facing the league is the grass roots level and perfecting an organization and getting every AFL member and voters in our family registered, I am sure.

He urged local leagues to keep completely independent and nonpartisan; not become the tail to any political party; not be taken over by any particular candidate, and always be in a position to support candidates on the basis of their record. He said the league will insist upon candidates, especially in those states where senatorial contests will be held this year, to pledge:

"The 1950 elections present an entirely different problem from the 1948 elections," Mr. Keenan said. "In 1950 labor's job will be mostly to retain Senators who are friendly. Nothing will hurt labor more than to fail in 1950 in protecting those Senators who have stood by us on the various roll call votes during the past year."

Mr. Keenan said that among these friendly Senators are Wayne Morse of Oregon, George Aiken of Vermont and Robert W. Taft of New Hampshire, all Republicans; Francis Myers of Pennsylvania, Brian McMahon of Connecticut, Paul Douglas of Illinois, Lister Hill of Alabama and Claude Pepper of Florida, Democrats.

He said in addition to holding these and other seats of friendly Senators, a reactionary Senator must be sent back to private life. He said, 4 of the 5 most vicious reactionary Senators are Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri, Homer Capehart of Indiana and Eugene Millikin of Colorado.

"Half of all those who desire to retired in 1950, Taft leads all the rest," he said. "It's a great job we have ahead of us, but it is a job we must do."

Mr. Keenan urged league members not to overlook other races though.

"Taft may be the most spectacular of labor's enemies," he said, "but he is only one member of the 96 who make up the Senate. Given a Congress like Defeating Taft alone won't mean a thing unless we do the same for at least a sufficient number of other Senators to make it as much bad votes for us as bad Taft.

"To do the job in the Senate and to retire at least 14 antilabor Representatives, we must be ready to go in every single congressional district by February 1."

AFL Plans Nightly Newscasts to Offset Anti-Labor Attacks

St. Paul.—The AFL will begin a newscast five nights a week over 147 radio stations on January 1 to offset antilabor attacks.

This was announced by George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL and Labor's League for Political Education, during the 68th AFL convention.

Mr. Meany said that final arrangements have been made for a 15-minute newscast, sponsored by the AFL and League Monday through Friday. He said the broadcast will be heard at 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time over the facilities of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

The selection of a news commentator will be made next month.

"It is the hope," Mr. Meany said, "that the nightly newscast we will be able to counteract in the public mind the adverse charges and insinuations made against labor's legitimate aspirations and legislative program by most of the commentators now on the air."

Mr. Meany said the cost will be $100,000 a year. The league bearing 40 percent of the total.

Jewell Urges AFL Fight Isolationism

St. Paul.—Bert M. Jewell, labor adviser of the Economic Cooperation Administration, urged AFL unions to "continue your fight against isolationism with all vigor cooperation."

The former president of the AFL Railway Employes Department told the 68th annual AFL convention that our trade unions must get ready and ready to take an increasing part in all world affairs.

"Isolationism leads and always has lead to war," Mr. Jewell said. "World cooperation will preserve peace.

"Our people cannot have security, freedom, prosperity and our kind of democracy with the rest of the world in poverty headed for totalitarian government. We cannot have isolation and freedom too.

Mr. Jewell called the nation's economic aid to Europe a "revolution" which has succeeded beyond hopes in rehabilitating the free nations of Europe ahead. He criticized "a few special interest groups in America currently trying to drive our government into requiring Europe to buy their special goods.

He urged the AFL to furnish labor representatives and willing to grass greater opportunities to participate in international affairs.

GREEN DEPLORES USE OF COURT INJUNCTION

St. Paul.—AFL President William Green told the 68th annual convention that the AFL "deplores" the use of the writ of injunction by organizations affiliated with the AFL against their own members.

He called upon the American Guild of Musical Artists to withdraw its plaint from following this course and recommended "a conference of the injunction" against the American Federation of Musicians.

Mr. Green pointed out that the jurisdictional dispute between the sister organizations should be settled in accordance with AFL tradition "within the family of labor and that it is the method we insist shall be employed and the policy pursued by organizations affiliated with the AFL."

"All of you are acquainted with the record made by the Executive Council by the American Federation of Labor against resort to the use of injunctions against labor, and as a result of that fight we succeeded in bringing about the passage of the Norris-LaGuardia Act which made labor free from the control of the judiciary of the nation of injunctions against labor," Mr. Green said. "Now it seems, it convenients that a member of the family of labor would resort to the use of that method that we denounced so vigorously and succeeded in having abolished through legislative action."

RHODES SAYS POLITICS NOW AN EVERY DAY JOB

St. Paul.—Congressman George M. Rhodes, an AFL organizer in Reading, told the 68th AFL convention that:

"Politics is a job day in and day out throughout the year. It isn't only a job for a few weeks before election day."

ATTENDS 47TH CONVENTION

St. Paul.—Frank Duffy, Indianapolis, attended AFL conventions for the 47th consecutive year, reliably reported to be a record. A former AFL vice president and secretary emeritus of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, he attended his first convention in 1902 and hasn't missed since.

68th Convention Approves Demand That Statute Pass Expanded Social Security This Session; Backs Federal Aid to Education, Housing

St. Paul.—Unanimously putting into effect its greatest political program in history, the 68th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor moved swiftly toward attainment of its major economic and social objectives.

The 700 delegates representing 8,000,000 workers pushed through a program for 1950 highlighted by:

1. An immediate start for Labor's League for Political Education to elect a Congress next year that will repeal the Taft-Hartley law and enact other liberal legislation.

2. Approval of President William Green's demand that the United States Senate pass at this session the liberalized social security program unanimously enacted by the House of Representatives.

3. Endorsement of Federal aid to education, provision of housing for middle-income families, repeal of Taft-Hartley, a federal public health program.

4. Reiteration of support for organic unity of all labor unions in the nation.

5. Consideration of an Executive Council recommendation to hold the annual convention on the third Monday of September each year.

6. Pledges from President Truman and Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin to work for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and enactment of liberal legislation for all workers.

7. A plea from Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator, to support increased imports from Europe so that she can help herself.

8. Appeals for continued AFL support of the world-wide fight against communism and totalitarianism from fraternal delegates and AFL representatives from Great Britain, Canada, Latin America, Germany, Hungary, Denmark, Europe.

9. Award of a plaque by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to Mr. Green for distinguished service in the fight for abolition of racial discrimination in the labor movement.

President Green made House passage of the liberalized social security measure the outstanding legislative victory for labor during this session of Congress.

He made it plain that the AFL intended to use its new political program immediately to prevail upon the Senate to "cast off the yoke" of the House of the United States to act upon this measure before it adjourns this session of Congress."

Delegates enthusiastically applauded his declaration and moved promptly to endorse other legislation on housing and education.

On education, the convention urged federal funds for desperately-needed public school buildings, more and better vocational education programs, promotion of economic trips for foreign travel, higher salaries for teachers and improved welfare services for children.

On housing, the convention urged legislation to solve the housing needs of socalled middle-income families in the $2,000-$3,750 per year bracket.

It advocated that all central labor councils and local building trades councils create a housing committee to (1) make certain that labor is represented on local public housing and slum clearance projects under the 1949 bill passed by Congress; (2) protect the interest of union families in rent control until adequate housing is available so that controls can be safely removed without hardship to tenants; and (3) stimulate interest in the middle-income housing program which is listed for congressional action early next year.

Delegates voted unanimously to recommend that the Executive Council continue to make known its readiness to initiate and support efforts to consolidate the labor unions in our country.

"Efforts at cooperation in the economic and legislative fields, as in the political field, can be only partially successful so long as division within the ranks of labor continues," the convention said. "If we are to organize with maximum effectiveness, if we hope to achieve maximum benefits through such organization, it is essential that we reiterate our continued interest and support of the ideal of a positive nature in the interest of achieving unity within the labor movement."

Reaffirming a hard-hitting policy on these major domestic issues, the convention received reports on trade union activities in many foreign countries and expressed appreciation for continued AFL support for these labor movements abroad and this country's economic cooperation policy.

Two of the speakers are the fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress. They were Lincoln Evans, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and a member of the general council of the TUC, and Tom Williamson, president of the International Federation of Employes in the Public and Civil Service and a former member of Parliament.

Both expressed their appreciation for AFL support of Marshall Plan aid which has helped Europe to achieve the accomplishments of the British Labor government, and asked for continued friendship and understanding.

Mr. Green told the delegates the AFL is not in accord with the point of view that criticizes the British labor government.

"We believe that the people have a right to shape, formulate and carry out their own economic and political policies free from interference from the outside anywhere," Mr. Green said. "We believe that the government they want to establish we shall say you have the right to do so, so long as it is not a totalitarian form of government." Robert Bimlod, fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, drew a rousing round of applause during his speech when he related how that organization had successfully overwhelmingly defeated attempts made by Communist from holding an office.

"In true Canadian style our Congress had dealt a series of body blows to these disrupters within our movement," he said.

The convention reaffirmed its support of a foreign policy program and completion of the domestic legislative policies and federation business.

AFL Speeds House Action Expanding Social Security

St. Paul.—The AFL's 68th convention and President William Green sped action by the House of Representatives on liberalizing the social security law with an eleventh hour demand for overwhelming approval of the measure under consideration.

In an extraordinary move, the convention laid aside regular business to adopt a special report of the committee on the executive council's recommendations for passage of H.R. 6000.

The executive council told the convention that this bill contains "the most liberal and far reaching proposals that have been before Congress in 10 years" and that it "warrants the enthusiastic endorsement of the American Federation of Labor."

The 700 convention delegates unanimously shouted approval of a special committee report that this portion of the executive council report be adopted. At the same time they pledged themselves to "do everything appropriate congressional leaders urging passage of the bill without further delay.

To House Speaker Sam Rayburn, House Majority Leader John W. McCormack and Chairman Robert L. Doughton of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Green immediately sent the following telegram:

"The 68th convention of the American Federation of Labor, now in session in St. Paul, departing from the regular order of business, considered your bill providing for liberalized social security benefits. The action of the convention, representing 8,000,000 workers and their families, unanimously endorsed the bill and in response to the convention action I am asking you to urge the U. S. House of Representatives to act favorably on this important measure.

"The millions of elderly retired workers and workers' survivors look to Congress to act on their behalf. Many more millions of working people look to Congress to remove the constant fear of dependent old age and physical disability. The passage of H. R. 6000 will be a long step in that direction."

Among other things, the executive council said this bill will extend coverage of 11,000,000 new wage earners, materially liberalize current benefits for 2,600,000 persons, raise the basic benefits which are computed, and increase contributions from both employer and worker from one and one-half percent in 1950 to 3½ percent by 1970.

Tobin Calls on Labor to 'Sell' Its Story of Service to Nation

St. Paul.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin called on the AFL's 68th convention to "sell America the story of what it has done not so much for itself as for everybody in the whole." Tobin said. His rousing speech offered one of the enthusiastic demonstrations of the convention.

"You need only recite the record and all Americans will realize that the advance of organized labor has been the advance of the nation. Your progress has been the progress of American progress," Tobin said.

"You have brought about conditions of attendance, you have eliminated child labor, you have insisted on minimum wages, factory sanitary laws, workmen's compensation, unemployment compensation, providing the Wagner Act. All these and other reforms you have advocated have now become inextricably part and parcel of a healthier, richer, freer America."

Tobin said the AFL has done its job well because it has helped to build an America rich enough to pay the wages which workers receive.

"Tell the idea," Tobin urged, "that everybody is indebted to you, that the whole economy has been lifted up by your efforts, that you have contributed much to the building of the strength of the nation.

"Tell it out so that every American will be bound to appreciate what you have already done, so that every American will know that you are trying to lift the depressed and the neglected and the unskilled and the poor and he is blessed by abundance for all.

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"President Truman points to that Tobin said. "He is a visionary. Not at all. Continuing full employment and rising productivity will carry us to this lofty plateau. We can reach it, we can reach it, we are to attain the high standards of housing, health and living we want every American to enjoy.

"We can reach it, he continues, "if we are to see in every American home a deeper sense of security and usefulness, a higher level of happiness, that the nation has known in the past.

"We are in an economy such as this country never knew before," Tobin said. He cited the insurance of bank deposits, unemployment compensation and social security law, and the minimum wage and act as strong support sustaining high level employment.

"Tell the national economy can reach an annual level of $300,000,000,000.

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